

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-7, 11-15, 19-23, 27-31, and 35-39 are currently pending. Claims 1-5 are currently withdrawn. Claims 6-7, 11-15, 19-23, 27-31, and 35-37 are amended. Claims 8-10, 16-18, 24-26, and 32-34 are cancelled and new claims 38-39 are added.

Claims 8-10 and 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In view of the amendments to the claims, it is respectfully requested that the above rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 6-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Omasa (U.S. 2001/0053332). Claims 14-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Omasa in view of Nishii et al (U.S. 6,468,428). Applicant submits that all of the claims currently pending are patentably distinguishable over the cited references, and reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Amended independent claims 6, 14, 22, and 30 include, among other limitations, "a vibrating stirrer disposed inside the treatment tank and comprising an insulated vibrating stirrer having a vibration generator, a vibration rod, at least one vibration vane for vibration and at least one auxiliary vane fixed to the vibration rod, wherein the auxiliary vane is substantially devoid of vibration ability," and "wherein the at least one auxiliary vane or a combination of the at least one auxiliary vane and at least one component selected from a group of the vibration generator, the vibration rod, and the vibration vane-fixing member serves as an anode or a cathode." Support for above amendments are provided, at least, on page 48, and page 51, line 16 to page 52, line 6. Omasa, alone or in combination with Nishii, does not teach or suggest the above limitation.

First, Omasa does not have any auxiliary vane. That is, none of the vibration vanes 10 in Omasa are an auxiliary vane substantially devoid of vibration ability.

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Second, Omasa does not teach "wherein the auxiliary vane is substantially devoid of vibration ability." Rather, all of the vibration vanes 10 in Omasa vibrate via the vibration rod and the vibration motor.

Third, Omasa does not teach "wherein the at least one auxiliary vane or a combination of the at least one auxiliary vane and at least one component selected from a group of the vibration generator, the vibration rod, and the vibration vane-fixing member serves as an anode or a cathode." That is, the auxiliary vane, according to the claimed invention is always used as an anode or a cathode. There is no mention of using any auxiliary vane as an anode or a cathode in Omasa.

As a result, amended independent claims 6, 14, 22, and 30 are not anticipated by Omasa and therefore are patentable over the cited references.

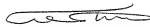
Dependent claims 7, 11-13, 15, 19-21, 23, 27-29, 31, and 35-39 depend from allowable claims 6, 14, 22, and 30, and include all of the limitations of the allowable independent claims 6, 14, 22, and 30 and additional limitations therein. Accordingly, these claims are also allowable over the cited references as being dependent from allowable independent claims, and for the additional limitations they include therein.

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, therefore, reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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